

REMARKS

The Office Action dated January 12, 2012, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

By this Amendment, claim 87 has been canceled and claims 1, 66 and 67 have been amended. No new matter is presented. Claims 1, 3, 5, 66-69, 71, 80, and 81 are pending and respectfully submitted for consideration.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter in claim 87.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

*Claims 1, 2, 67, 69 and 80*

Claims 1, 2, 67, 69 and 80 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsao (U.S. Patent No. 6,263,866) view of Greenland (U.S. Patent No. 6,276,990, "Greenland") and further in view of Rafalow (U.S. Patent No. 4,660,450) and Steinman (U.S. Patent No. 3,727,502) and Smith et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,347,624, "Smith"). As noted in the previous Responses, claim 2 has been canceled. In addition, there is no stated rejection of claim 69 in view of the above-cited references. Claim 80 depends from claim 1. As claims 1 and 67 have been amended with the allowable subject matter of claim 87, the Applicant submits that claims 1, 67 and 80 are now allowable.

*Claim 3*

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsao in view of Greenland and further in view of Rafalow, Steinman and Smith. Claim 3 depends from claim 1 and is allowable based at least on its dependency from claim 1 and for the subject matter recited therein.

*Claim 69*

Claim 69 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsao in view of Greenland and further in view of Rafalow, Steinman, and Smith and further in view of McCambridge et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,350,193), Marcoux et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,342,226), Brenta (U.S. Patent No. 4,105,055), Sanfilippo (U.S. Patent No. 6,745,803) and Otto (U.S. Patent No. 5,161,590). As claim 69 depends from claim 67, the Applicant submits that claim 69 is allowable based at least on its dependency from claim 67 and for the subject matter recited therein.

*Claim 71*

Claim 71 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsao in view of Greenland and further in view of Rafalow, Steinman, and Smith and further in view of Sigetich. As claim 71 depends from claim 1, the Applicant submits that claim 71 is allowable based at least on its dependency from claim 1 and for the subject matter recited therein.

*Claims 66, 67 and 68*

Claims 66 and 68 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsao in view of Greenland and further in view of Rafalow, Steinman, and Smith. Claim 67 was additionally rejected in view of these references. As claims 66 and 67 have been amended with the allowable subject matter of claim 87, the Applicant submits that claims 66 and 67 are allowable. Claim 68 depends from claim 67 as is allowable at least based on its dependency from claim 67 and for the subject matter recited therein.

*Claim 81*

Claim 81 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsao in view of Greenland, further in view of Rafalow, Steinman, and Smith and further in view of Sigetich. As claim 81 depends from claim 66, the Applicant submits that claim 81 is allowable based at least on its dependency from claim 66 and for the subject matter recited therein.

Conclusion

In view of the above, the Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are allowable.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's deposit account No. 02-2548, referencing Attorney Dkt. No. P-US-TN-3305.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 12, 2012



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